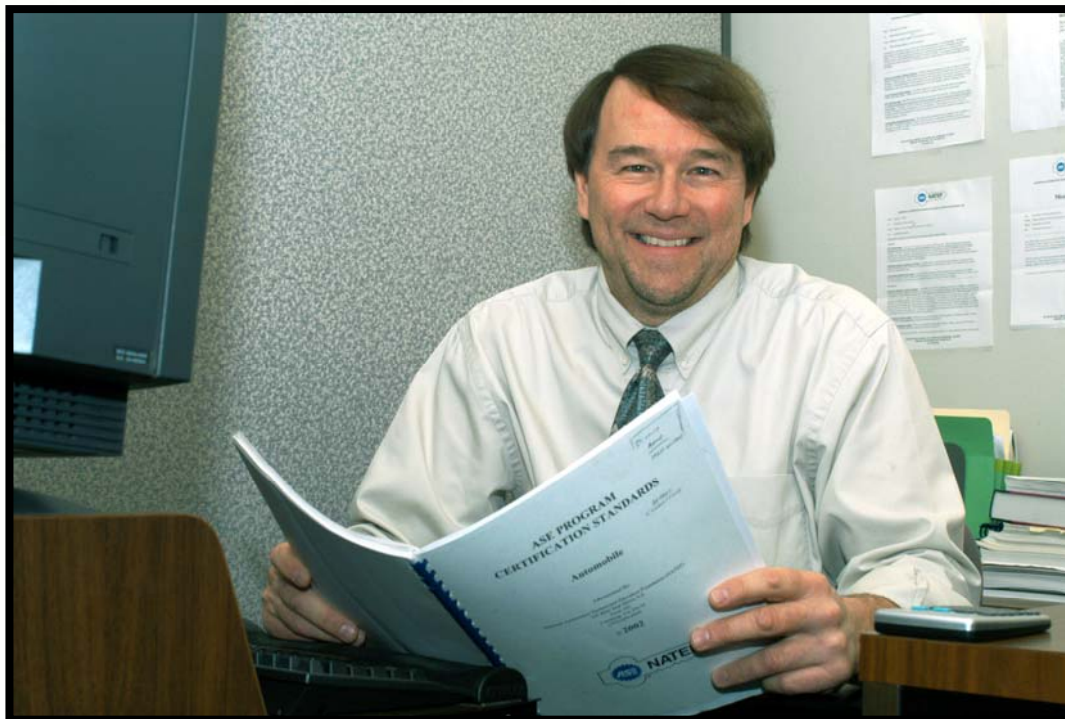


Nickens Participates in National ASE/NATEF Workshop

By special invitation, OCTE Transportation Academic Consultant Todd Nickens was one of 17 people who made up an Automotive Service Excellence/National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (ASE/NATEF) committee for the purpose of updating the 2002 automotive technology task list. The workshop is held every three years to address current and future trends that need to be covered in automotive technology training programs nationwide. Nickens was the only statewide academic consultant in the United States to be invited to participate in the Atlanta, GA workshop – a special honor by any measure.

“...It was a great opportunity and honor for me to have input in the task list update because it will impact automotive technology training programs throughout the country.”
Todd Nickens



The 3-day workshop was intense, with over 33 hours of hard work. The current views of industry representatives and educators nationwide were well represented with the following committee makeup: one state academic consultant, one local district consultant, one secondary automotive technology instructor, three postsecondary automotive technology instructors, one division dean of a technical college, two independent automotive shop owners, and eight industry representatives (Toyota, General Motors, Honda, Nissan, Midas, Snap-on, Daimler Chrysler, and Infiniti).

Specific tasks completed by committee members included:

- 1. Reviewing the NATEF task list for relevancy and appropriateness of each task.**
- 2. Reviewing the priority rating for each item in the task list and adjusting if necessary.**
- 3. Reviewing the automotive technology tools and equipment lists (general lab/shop equipment, hand tools and specialty tools and equipment) and amending if necessary.**
- 4. Reviewing the current program hours requirement and recommending adjustments if necessary.**
- 5. Recommending additional instructor qualifications if needed.**

At the conclusion of the workshop, the committee came up with an updated task list that was acceptable to the industry representatives and educators.

“The new ‘task list/curriculum’ will be released in July/August of 2005,” says Nickens. “We will then seek approval from KY Tech’s Automotive Technology Curriculum Committee so that our instructors can start using the new curriculum in the fall of 2006.”

An independent, non-profit organization, NATEF was founded in 1983 with a single mission: To evaluate technician training programs against standards developed by the automotive industry and recommend qualifying programs for certification (accreditation) by ASE, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.

As a result of the NATEF process, secondary and postsecondary certified automotive training programs are in all fifty states. Additionally, NATEF evaluates the providers of in-service technician training programs under a program called Continuing Automotive Service Education (CASE).

“Attending this workshop was indeed a privilege for me,” says Nickens. “Not only was I able to make valuable professional contacts, but I was also provided with an opportunity to sit in among the best in the nation to see what is on the cutting edge. It was a great opportunity and honor for me to have input in the task list update because it will impact automotive technology training programs throughout the country.”

Currently, there are 46 automotive technology programs in the KY Tech system of schools. Forty-four programs are ASE certified.

“Our instructors have also done a great job in working to become ASE certified,” says Nickens. “If the instructor is not certified, the program cannot be certified.”

For a complete listing of certified programs in Kentucky, visit <http://www.natef.org/certified00.cfm>



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